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FRANK FREYTAG,
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AMERICANS DONT UNDERSTAND THE WAR.

Former Senator Beveridge of Indiana has just returned from a visit to both the eastern and the western battle fronts in Europe and in a speech which he made before the Sphinx Club of New York on the night of his return he repeated with great emphasis and insistence what has often been referred to by careful students who have visited the war-swept countries—that the American people have misjudged and do not understand the war and its issues. His statements in that respect are so conclusive that a portion of his speech as reported by the New York Times is herewith appended. He said:

"I went to Germany, and then to France, with the idea that we Americans took up from our newspapers. They were all wrong ideas. My experience over there was simply a case of dropping old preconceptions after another."

It is foolish and a folly now that this is a ruler that it is the lot of people. I tried everywhere to find neutrals who were against the war, but they were all for it, and of the 1,500,000 workers in Germany, who were socialists there were practically 1,000,000 volunteers to serve. But in spite of this the great gain of the war to Europe, whatever wins and however much it costs, is the result of the enormous advance of democracy. The advance, in fact, has already come. It has come so quickly and has extended so far that the United States today, even if may be trailing in the rear as the most sordid and reactionary Christian nation to the world.

We are too sordid and material in thought to realize that the real war is the wonderful adventure in Germany and in France. No man or woman is thinking of himself or herself, or even of his or her family. One and all the people are thinking of how they can serve the state or help the soldiers at the front. All the sermons over preached on peace from the pulpits have done nothing but that has produced a spirit of self-sacrifice or devotion to the common cause. Spirituality, through the war, has put materialism under its feet. And in this country our best men have almost forgotten patriotism in the quest for business advantage.

"Every idea I went to Europe with was turned out to me. The war will not end now. The people in the country are devoted to it, and in their devotion have built up machines to do work, the like of which were never seen in those times of peace. Why, in the Poland campaign of the Germans I found more men than are employed on the pay rolls of New York City, just finding out where the good roads are, and driving along them, and then over what route he could get across his heavy wagons and artillery. In going to a ball game in Indianapolis I would often be stopped an hour on the road because of the lard, but the great German army, with wagons and artillery, had Cross wagons, everything passed along one narrow road, and that was a bush.

"There is no trace of cowardice anywhere in Europe. In the sublime earnestness of the combatants what happens to them has quite entirely ceased to matter."

Nearly every idea that Senator Beveridge had gleaned from the newspaper before he went there was wrong. When he was able to see and understand for himself—every idea I went to Europe with was knocked out of me." Senator Beveridge is a fairly big man—a man of education, of legal training, of a wide experience, and with a clear and cultivated mind.

When he frankly admits that his newspaper reading had led him wholly astray the admission may well serve as a warning for the rest of us—a warning against cock-sureness, against bias and prejuice, founded on newspaper reports and on other reports such as were accessible to Senator Beveridge before he went to Europe.

It should be understood that misleading reports are not the fault of the American newspapers. With very few exceptions indeed, whatever their editorial bias may be, they have ever disposition to report the war and its issues fully and fairly. But there is no news comes of them except such as the press bureaus of the warring nations inscribe or such as the censor review and pass.

For example, the newspaper from which this report of Senator Beveridge's speech is taken, the New York Times, recently published under a London date line an article accredited to Prof. von Leyden in the Frankfurter Zeitung. This eminent scholar was quoted as saying that Germans despise and defy all neutral peoples. These words were attributed to him: "Germany must and will stand alone. The Germans are the salt of the earth; they will fulfill their destiny, which is to rule the world and control other nations for the benefit of mankind."

Some six weeks afterwards the attention of the Times is called to the fact that no such article and no artic-

le remotely resembling it was ever published in the German paper, to which it was accredited, and that Prof. von Leyden, named as its author, died in October, 1910.

The Times frankly admits the imposition and explains that the article was obtained from a London newspaper and published, on its part, in entire good faith. But meanwhile this fictitious Von Leyden letter has been copied and commented on in numerous other American newspapers, and the truth will never overtake the lie.

This is merely one little instance. But it serves to explain why an intelligent student of the war as Senator Beveridge is obliged to admit that men like him, gained on the American side, were all wrong, and why he declares that the American people have judged the war in the wrong spirit and are unable to understand the nature of the conflict.

WOMEN—THE BALLOT—COMMERCIALIZED VICE.

It is not unexpected or in the least unusual that women should be claiming more for the reforms in which they happen to be interested than is likely to result—men often do the same. Democrats and Republicans alike have the fatal habit of boasting overmuch regarding the progressiveness they have put forth and of what would be accomplished thereafter and both have been obliged and compelled to explain and apologize when the event arises to put the record straight. Why not get busy and have the harbinger of peace stepped here?

These stuporous apatites of equal suffrage now tell of that commercialized vice will never be wiped out until women get the ballot. Perhaps that is so—and perhaps it is not so. Even women will not be able by some means to change human nature, and there happens to be a lot of human nature in commercialized vice. It is only perverted human nature.

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Until the woman half of this problem is dealt with successfully, the machine will continue to snarl.

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